



*Woodwind  
Chamber  
Ensemble*

Missouri Music Educators Association  
80th Annual In-Service Workshop / Conference  
January 25, 2018



*Dear Members of the Missouri Music Educators Association:*

*The Kirkwood School District is truly honored by your selection of the Kirkwood High School Woodwind Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Mrs. Rebecca Friesen, to perform at the Missouri Music Educators Association 80th Annual Conference. We are so proud of our students and of Mrs. Friesen, for providing the exemplary instruction and dedication to practice that has proven to be the combination essential to their success.*

*Thank you for your work in supporting music educators for over 80 years. The Kirkwood School District community has always shown an appreciation for music education, and this support is enhanced by teachers like Mrs. Friesen who invest in our students so that they may grow as musicians. Please accept the Kirkwood High School Woodwind Chamber's exemplary performance as an expression of our gratitude for the work of all Missouri music educators.*

*Yours truly,*



*Michele M. Condon  
Interim Superintendent*

*Dear Members of the Missouri Music Educators Association:*

*Kirkwood High School is pleased and honored with the selection of the Kirkwood High School Woodwind Chamber Ensemble, directed by Mrs. Rebecca Friesen, to perform at this year's Missouri Music Educators Association Conference. The entire Kirkwood High School Woodwind Chamber Ensemble, students and teachers, exemplify the long history of excellence in the Kirkwood School District. We are proud of each one of them as they continue to showcase one of the best fine arts departments in the state. We are excited for them to perform for the prestigious group of music educators.*

*The Kirkwood School District and the entire community are extremely proud of our students and teachers. Thank you for providing these students the opportunity to share their music with the Missouri Music Educators Association members. I know you will enjoy their music as much as we do in Kirkwood.*

*Sincerely,*

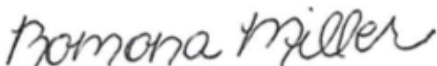


*Mike Havener  
Principal, Kirkwood High School*

*Dear Members of the Missouri Music Educators Association:*

*On behalf of the students and staff of Kirkwood High School, I'd like to offer congratulations to Mrs. Rebecca Friesen and the Kirkwood High School Woodwind Chamber Ensemble on their selection to perform at the Missouri Music Educators 80th Annual Conference. We continue to be proud of the dedication and musical excellence that this group brings. Their hard work, perseverance and vision have truly set a high standard. It is a well-deserved honor and recognition for this group. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!*

*Sincerely,*



*Romona Miller  
Assistant Principal, Kirkwood High School*



**KIRKWOOD**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **ABOUT THE KIRKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Kirkwood School District has built a solid reputation as a district where children and their needs come first. Kirkwood schools and communities share a proud heritage and respect for tradition as well as a progressive attitude toward education.

The Kirkwood School District serves approximately 5,600 students in five elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. The Kirkwood Early Childhood Center, which includes a Parents as Teachers program, serves families with children from birth through age 10.

Chartered in 1865, KSD is among the oldest school districts west of the Mississippi River. Located in southwest St. Louis County, approximately 15 miles from the city of St. Louis, KSD covers an area of 15 square miles and serves all or portions of eight suburban communities: Des Peres, Frontenac, Glendale, Huntleigh, Kirkwood, Oakland, Town and Country, and Warson Woods. The district also welcomes eligible students from the city of St. Louis through participation in the St. Louis Voluntary Transfer Program.

The district and its surrounding communities reflect a blend of old town charm with new suburban vitality. Residents enjoy the thriving business districts within the various municipalities, beautiful parks and recreation facilities, an open-air produce market, and a nationally acclaimed children's museum. Several parochial schools and a community college are located within the district's boundaries. KSD residents also benefit from the cultural and educational opportunities in the metropolitan St. Louis area.

### **Kirkwood School District Board of Education**

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Marie Kelly, Vice President  
Julie Backer, Secretary  
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**K I R K W O O D**  
S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

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## KIRKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Kirkwood High School has a long, rich history that dates back to the founding of the Kirkwood School District in 1865. High school and elementary students attended school together in a temporary building, which opened in the fall of 1866, and later in the Jefferson Avenue School, the district's first formal school built in 1869. African-American students attended the Booker T. Washington School, which opened in 1869 on Adams near Geyer Road. In 1888, the district built the Adams Avenue School next to the Jefferson School and offered a two-year high school program for students completing the elementary grades. In 1896, Kirkwood offered the first four-year high school program in St. Louis County; ten students were members of the first graduating class in the spring of 1867. In 1922, a new high school was built on Kirkwood Road, where Nipher Middle School stands today.

In 1955, the district moved Kirkwood High School to its current 47-acre, seven building, college-style campus on Essex Avenue. Both white and African-American students were enrolled to attend high school together for the first time. Building improvements from a 1993 tax/bond issue included the Thomas N. Keating Performance Center, a fine arts complex that features a 821-seat theater, as well as band, orchestra and vocal music classrooms. The privately funded Walker Commons enclosed the theater lobby area connecting the Keating Center to the main campus.

Generosity of private donors also enabled Kirkwood High School to add a natatorium to its campus in 2015. The building contains an eight-lane, 115-foot competitive swimming pool featuring two one-meter diving boards, locker rooms, and spectator stands to hold 400 fans.

Community support and passage of Proposition K in 2016 allowed the district to replenish the operating fund balance and provided the financial stability to maintain current staff and supply budgets, add teachers to keep up with increased enrollment, and retain quality staff members with a 1.5% salary package increase. We are very grateful to everyone who helped promote and pass Prop K because it has allowed us to keep our beginning music program open so that we can nurture our fourth and fifth graders as they embark on their musical journey.



## THE KIRKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT BAND PROGRAM

The Kirkwood Band Program provides the opportunity for students to develop the technical performance skills, knowledge and understanding of music necessary to make music a part of their lives. Annually, over 600 Kirkwood students participate in band in the Elementary Instrumental Band Program, North Kirkwood Middle School Band, Nipher Middle School Band and Kirkwood High School Band. Students begin band in 5th grade in homogeneous classes that meet at the respective middle schools before school twice a week.

The band program at Kirkwood High School provides a comprehensive musical experience for its students with special emphasis placed in the areas of Concert and Solo & Ensemble performance. Performance opportunities at North Kirkwood and Nipher Middle Schools include 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands. North Middle School band classes meet four days a week. Three days are 50 minute class and one day is a 90 minute class. Nipher Middle School band classes meet every day for 50 minutes. Both middle schools have active jazz and percussion ensemble programs meeting after school once per week.

The Kirkwood Band Program also supports Play it Forward. This program is a mentoring opportunity for our high school and middle school students. It meets weekly at each middle school. High school musicians volunteer their time to give private and small group lessons to middle school band students.

Performing ensembles at Kirkwood High School include the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Woodwind Chamber Ensemble, Brass Choir, Jazz Combo, Jazz Band and Pit Orchestra. In the fall, all of these groups combine to form the 225-member Pioneer Pride Marching Band. Special emphasis is placed on auditioning for the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association District Honor Band in the fall and participating in the SLSMEA/MSHSAA Solo/Small Ensemble Festival in the spring. Because we encourage active musical experiences of both an individual and a shared nature, all 7th through 12th grade students are required to prepare and perform a solo or choose a small ensemble with appropriate instrumentation for performance. Students are strongly encouraged to perform their solo or small ensemble at St. Louis Suburban District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

We believe that musical experiences enrich the lives of students and the life of the community. The program is structured in such a way that students can be involved in every area of the school culture without having to choose one activity over another. The goal of the music program is to foster, encourage, and support students to be scholars, athletes and musicians throughout their lives. This is the Portrait of a Pioneer.

The band teaching staff is made up of four full-time band directors, three part-time band teachers and one part-time percussion instructor. Each instructor teaches two sections of homogenous beginning 5th grade band classes that meet twice per week. The four full-time instructors also teach in a lead or assistant role at grade 6-12 band levels, offering unparalleled continuity of instruction. By the time they graduate from Kirkwood High School, students have been guided through the goals put forth in the band curriculum for eight consecutive years by the instructors who taught them their first notes. This approach allows for a unique and comprehensive band experience.

The training students receive in the Kirkwood Band Program prepares them to: recognize through aesthetic awareness that music is a part of the human experience, acquire skills necessary for life-long music learning and application, prepare and present musically proficient performances, alone or in an ensemble, and enjoy and appreciate musical performances within their historical and cultural context.





# *2017-2018 Kirkwood High School Woodwind Chamber Ensemble*

## **Flute**

Osman Noueiry\*  
Adler Bowman  
Christina Maury  
Will Blackmore

## **Oboe**

Polly Rekittke  
Jack Leonhardt-Smith

## **Clarinet**

Carlos Escudero\*  
Thomas Birmingham\*  
Audrey Friesen\*  
Aubrey Puryear  
Phebe Hammond  
Joey Leible  
Esperanza Aguilar  
Megan McGhee  
Marin Ostermeyer

## **Bass Clarinet**

Olivia Melsha\*

## **Bass Clarinet/Contra Alto Clarinet**

Madi Janysek

## **Contra Bass Clarinet**

Claire Boysen

## **Bassoon**

Emma Verrill#\*~  
Mat Coble

## **Alto Saxophone**

Will Drury  
Nathan Lin\*  
Quentin Stepp

## **Tenor Saxophone**

Sandra Swat\*  
Michael Guilfoxy

## **Baritone Saxophone**

Samaya Trawick  
Chris Palmer

# Missouri All-State Band member/recognition  
\* St. Louis All-Suburban Honor Band member/recognition  
~ All-National Honor Band



**KIRKWOOD**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Program

## “Celebration” .....Donald Coakley, arr. David Marlatt

Celebration was originally the fifth and final movement of Divertimento for violins and cellos. This work was commissioned for a Suzuki string program in Paris, France. The robust nature of this movement lends itself well to a mixed woodwind ensemble.

## “La Fille au Cheveux de Lin” .....Claude Debussy, arr. Barton Cummings

*La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin* (The Girl with the Flaxen Hair) is the eighth of Debussy’s Preludes, Book 1 (1909-1910). The piece, named after the poem by Leconte de Lisle, is known for its musical simplicity, which was a divergence from Debussy’s style at the time. Completed in January 1910, it was published three months later and premiered in June of that same year. The prelude is one of the most recorded pieces of Debussy’s, both in its original version and in subsequent various arrangements.

The title *La fille aux cheveux de lin* was inspired by Leconte de Lisle’s poem by the same name, one of his *Chansons écossaises* (Scottish songs) from his 1852 collection *Poèmes antiques* (Ancient Poems).

### ***The Girl With The Flaxen Hair***

*On the lucerne midst flowers in bloom,  
Who sings praises to morning?  
It is the girl with golden hair,  
The beauty with lips of cherry.*

*For, love, in clear summer sunlight,  
Has soared with the lark and sung now.*

*Your mouth has such colours divine,  
My dear, so tempting to kisses.  
On grass in bloom, talk to me please,  
Girl with fine curls and long lashes.*

*For, love, in clear summer sunlight,  
Has soared with the lark and sung now.*

*Do not say no, cruel maiden.  
Do not say yes. Better to know  
The long lasting gaze of your eyes  
And your rosy lips, oh, my belle.*

*For, love, in clear summer sunlight,  
Has soared with the lark and sung now.*

*Farewell, you deer, farewell you hares  
And the red partridge. I want  
To stroke the gold of your tresses  
Smothering lips with my kisses.*

*For, love, in clear summer sunlight,  
Has soared with the lark and sung now.*

## “There Was a Pig Went Out To Dig” .....Percy Aldridge Grainger, arr. Gary Gackstatter

This delightfully rollicking Grainger tune was masterfully set for KHS woodwind choir by Gary Gackstatter in 2016. Gackstatter freely tosses the melodies around the ensemble while remaining true to Grainger’s quirky and descriptive style markings.

## “Sketch 1 Hide and Seek” .....Patrick Glenn Harper

This is the first movement of a three-movement piece for woodwind ensemble. Each movement functions as a sketch of a childhood memory. This first movement depicts a neighborhood game of hide and seek. The shifting time signatures and syncopated rhythms create an exciting piece where meters are hidden under contrasting meters creating a musical game of polymeter hide and seek.

## “Irish Tune from County Derry” .....Percy Aldridge Grainger, arr. Frank Erickson

The Irish Tune is based on a tune collected by a Miss J. Ross of New Town Limavady, County Derry, Ireland, and published in “The Petrie Collection of Ancient Music of Ireland” in 1885. The original setting was an a cappella version for mixed voices which was much admired by Edvard Grieg, with whom Grainger developed a strong friendship. An orchestral version followed and the military band version was completed in 1918. Grainger’s knowledge of instrumental voicings lends a richness to the sound and a blending of the interwoven melodies. The score is unique in that the principal melody is found on the top staff even though written in bass clef.

## “Gallop” from First Suite for Band .....Alfred Reed, arr. Kent Boulton

The First Suite for Band consists of four independent, contrasting movements, each prefaced by a one-word title giving a clue to the character of its music. The fourth movement entitled “Gallop” is an authentically styled American circus gallop. The tempo marking: “As fast as possible (but no faster!)” tells the whole story, and the music brings the whole work to its conclusion. Completed in 1975, the first performance was in Edmonton, Alberta, on April 3rd, 1975 by the Edmonton Public School Symphonic Band at the Alberta Night Festival concert C.M.E.A. convention with Mr. Reed conducting.





## *Special Acknowledgements From Rebecca Friesen*

**KHS class of 2017 members of the 2016-17 Woodwind Chamber Ensemble** who appeared on the accepted MMEA recorded application: Riley Carrigan, Sarah Mueller, Brooke Runge, Josh Demetri, Claire Hensley.

**Kirkwood School District administrators** for supporting the Woodwind Chamber Ensemble's performance today. Dr. Michele Condon, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Michael Havener, Principal, Kirkwood High School; Dr. Romona Miller, Assistant Principal and Performing Arts Administrator, Kirkwood High School.

**Band Parent Chaperones for our MMEA trip:** Jill Guilfooy and Caroline Maury.

**KB<sup>2</sup> (Kirkwood Band Boosters)** for all of their support with clinician fees, music purchases, alterations fees, programs, etc., etc., etc. Co-Presidents Jennifer Hopkins and Elizabeth Plants and Treasurer Tammy Hershey.

**Ensemble Clinicians** for conducting full ensemble rehearsals and sectionals, and for offering wisdom and guidance: Gary Gackstatter, Chamber Project St. Louis; Dana Hotle, Jennifer Gartley, Joseph Hendricks, Mary Wiley, Chris Bartz, Jeff Panhorst, Josh Johnson.

**Photographers:** Randy Kriewall, KHS math teacher, for taking the group photo that appears in the MMEA Program. Phil Milligan for taking the group photo that appears in the Missouri School Music Magazine.

**The Kirkwood Community:** Because of your support in passing Prop K, we are still able to provide important programs such as instrumental music for our students. Thank you!

The KHS Band staff for daily collaboration and exceptional teaching day in and day out.

Elizabeth Wright, KHS Performing Arts administrative assistant, for her professionalism and positive influence on our department and our students.

Scott, Andrew and Audrey for your undying support and love. WTG.

### **Special Contributions**

Donations and support for the printing of the MMEA Program by Nottelmann's Music, Midwest Sheet Music and Kirkwood Band Boosters.



**Nottelmann**  
M U S I C



**KIRKWOOD**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# *Kirkwood School District Band Staff*



**Rebecca Friesen** is in her 25th year of teaching and has been with the Kirkwood School District since 2005. She directs the elementary clarinet class, North Kirkwood Middle School 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands, Kirkwood High School Woodwind Chamber Ensemble, which she founded in 2005, and co-directs the Kirkwood High School Wind Ensemble and assists with the Pioneer Pride Marching Band. Previous to teaching in Kirkwood, she taught band in the Washington and Fort Zumwalt School Districts and was a member of adjunct faculty at St. Louis Community College - Meramec. She earned her B.M.E. from Missouri State University in 1992 and a M.M.E. from Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville in 1998. Rebecca is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Kappa Lambda, Missouri Music Educators Association, Missouri Educators National Conference, Missouri Bandmasters Association, and Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity. She lives in Kirkwood with her husband Scott, son Andrew and daughter Audrey.

**Jeff Melsha** is the Director of Bands at Kirkwood High School. His responsibilities include leading the Pioneer Pride Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Brass Choir, Jazz Band, and the Pit Orchestra. Jeff also teaches the percussion class in the fifth grade beginning band program and is the assistant manager of the Keating Theater at Kirkwood High School. Jeff lives in Kirkwood with his wife Martha, son Jacob, and daughter Olivia.

**Mary Jewell Wiley** has taught instrumental music for 23 years. In the Kirkwood District, she teaches the fifth grade flute students, assists with marching band, assists with all large concert ensembles at Kirkwood High School and is the lead director at Nipher middle school for grades 6-8. Mary received a bachelor's degree in clarinet performance from Illinois Wesleyan and her teaching credentials at Western Michigan University. In 2014 she completed her master's degree through Sam Houston State University while attending American Band College in Ashland Oregon. Mary is a member of the Missouri Music Educators Association. In 2007 she served as guest clinician for the Metro 8 Middle School Honor Band. When her schedule allows, she performs with various big bands and community theater groups in the St. Louis area.

**Joshua Johnson** attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree with honors. While at the U of I, Josh played oboe and English horn in the Illinois Wind Symphony, and studied conducting privately with Drs. Stephen and Beth Peterson, Professor Barry Houser and Dr. Linda Moorhouse. In addition to this, Josh served as a Drum Major for the two-time Drum Corps International World Champion, Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps. In the Kirkwood School District, Josh instructs the fifth grade beginning trumpet class and the beginning jazz band at North Kirkwood Middle School. The rest of his duties include assisting with all large ensembles at Kirkwood High School, North Kirkwood Middle School and Nipher Middle School.

**Chris Bartz** instructs students at all levels in the Kirkwood School District, teaches a private studio of saxophone students and performs as a freelance musician in the St. Louis area. Chris began his saxophone studies with Jeffrey Collins and Paul DeMarinis and was a member of the Kirkwood Music Program under the direction of Jeff Melsha. His senior year in high school, he made his orchestral debut with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and began garnering accolades as a saxophone soloist. Chris earned music degrees from Bowling Green State University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Southern California. Chris recently moved back to St. Louis after several years in California where he taught jazz and classical saxophone at California State University, Fullerton; the University of Southern California, and Idyllwild Arts Summer Program. He simultaneously enjoyed a performing career in Los Angeles where he frequently concertized with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, was featured as a concerto soloist with numerous ensembles and presented solo recitals at some of the premier performance venues on the West Coast. Chris has coached several middle and high school music programs and has given classical saxophone masterclasses and conference presentations across the country. As a teacher in the Kirkwood School District, Chris is devoted to motivating, developing and elevating others through music education.

**Andrew Edmonds** is a St. Louis based musician who plays with several local and touring bands, including StikYard, Arnold McCuller, Sean Coray and Leland's Road. Andrew loves collaborating with other musicians as a sideman and session player, helping make their musical visions become reality. Throughout his career he has had the opportunity to play at many well-respected venues, including Blueberry Hill, Edward Jones Dome and Grand Ole Opry. Playing with these bands has given him the opportunity to play and collaborate with notable musicians such as Charlie Daniels, Scotty McCreery, Martina McBride, Michael W. Smith, Bo Bice and The Black Keys. Andrew's passion for teaching and inspiring young drummers has led him to a career in education. He is currently the percussion teacher in Kirkwood School District. Andrew proudly endorses Vic Firth Drumsticks, Big Fat Snare Drum, and Zildjian Cymbals.

**Jeff Panhorst** is in his third year teaching in the Kirkwood School District. He studied bassoon performance and music education at the University of Missouri. For three of those years, Jeff proudly served as a drum major with Marching Mizzou. He is a member of the Missouri Music Educators Association, Missouri Bandmasters Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and the International Double Reed Society.

**Chris Brown** is in his sixth year of teaching the elementary low brass class for the Kirkwood School District. He has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Master of Music degree from the University of Alabama, both in performance. He performs with the St. Louis Wind Symphony and the St. Louis Civic Orchestra. Chris lives in St. Louis with his wife Katie and their two children, Logan and Nora.





KIRKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

